

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

September 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT Auditorium

Commission Members Present:

**MS Department of Corrections
MS Emergency Management Agency
MS National Guard
MS Association of Supervisors
MS Department of Environmental Quality
MS Department of Transportation
MS Association of Fire Chiefs
MS Office of Homeland Security
MS Department of Information Technology Services
MS Department of Health
MS Department of Public Safety**

**Chris Epps
Tom McAllister
Gary Ladd
Steve Gray
Keith Harkins
Willie Huff
Tom Lariviere
Jay Ledbetter
David Litchliter
Mike Lucius
Stephen Simpson**

Advisory Members Present:

**Chairman - House Public Utilities Committee
Chairman – Senate Public Utilities Committee
Vice Chairman – Senate Public Utilities Committee
Chairman – House Appropriations Committee**

**Representative Tyrone Ellis
Senator Nolan Mettetal
Senator Nickey Browning
Representative Johnny Stringer**

Chairman Epps called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Epps called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2009, meeting. Tom Lariviere made the motion and it was seconded by Steve Gray. The motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Epps recognized Keith Harkins to report for the Procurement Review Committee. Mr. Harkins reported that two requests came before the Committee this month. The first request came from the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for approval of \$471,366.30 for an eighteen (18) month extension of their satellite radio service to get them through the period of the MSWIN build-out. The second request came from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency for approval of a \$1M dollar expenditure for a GSSNet/First Alert System which will allow MOHS, MEMA, and other state agencies to distribute real-time alert notifications such as tornado warnings, evacuation notices, and Amber Alerts to target first responders or private citizens in Mississippi who possess a GSS receiver. The Committee approved both requests and brought them to the Commission for approval. Keith Harkins made the motions for approval of both requests and both were seconded by David Litchliter. The motions passed with none opposed.

Willie Huff reported for the Governance/Interoperability Committee. The GIC met two times since the last Commission meeting. To date, fifteen (15) PSIC grants have been awarded, eighteen (18) more applications have been submitted, and there are eighteen (18) more site visits pending. Mr. Huff will submit the specific numbers regarding the PSIC Grant awards to be included in the minutes prior to the next meeting.

Chairman Epps recognized Mike Lucius to report for the Revenue Committee. Mr. Lucius noted that the Revenue Committee had met prior to this meeting. The committee is investigating areas for revenue production.

Chairman Epps recognized Bill Roach to discuss the approval of the award for Build-to-Suit RFP and Project Update. Mr. Roach noted that five (5) vendors submitted bids in response to RFP No. 3603-37977. A handout outlining the proposal results was shared with the Commission. Mr. Roach noted that one vendor was eliminated from evaluation due to the vendor's fixed cost

proposal. In addition, Mr. Roach also noted that all vendors submitted excellent proposals. The lowest and best bid was submitted by Towers of Mississippi. The ITS Board approved that award in their August 27, 2009, meeting. There was some discussion of the development of the RFP specifications and the evaluation process. Tom McAllister made the motion for Commission approval of the RFP No. 3603-37977 award made to Towers of Mississippi and it was seconded by Colonel Gary Ladd. The motion passed with none opposed.

Mr. Roach began the MSWIN Project Update by showing a portion of the Governor's Press Conference on the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2009, where the Governor was able to demonstrate the connectivity and interoperability of MSWIN. The Governor was able to talk simultaneously with several local agencies from the Gulf Coast and state agencies in the Jackson area. Mr. Roach shared handouts with Commission members that showed the current build-out of the system noting that there are still some due diligence issues being worked through with one of the sites in Adams County.

The acceptance of Phase I is still expected to take place at the end of this year. The WCC has elected to accept delivery of the subscriber units that were allocated for Phase I. Delivery of some 100 Motorola subscriber units from that Phase I allocation was taken last month so that we would have extra radios in the cache in case of a hurricane or other disaster. Those subscriber units have not been distributed.

Some preliminary planning has been done on the division of the sites for build-out in the Northern part of the state (about fifteen (15) sites in each division). The order of build-out has not been finalized. A build-out from the North down is still a possibility.

Mr. Litchlitter provided a report on the monthly expenditures. He noted that monthly expenses for August were approximately \$2.6M dollars. The financial spreadsheet has been expanded to include PSIC Grant allocation and expenditures. Additional information has been included in the monthly report to provide more detail of WCC expenses as requested in last month's meeting.

The remaining balance is approximately \$28.5M dollars with the inclusion of PSIC fund. Without PSIC funds included, approximately \$18M dollars.

Bill Roach noted that there cannot be any spending of the \$10M dollars until the issues with the FEMA EHP have been resolved. Sample cases were sent to FEMA for review about two (2) weeks ago but no response has been received. Mr. Roach also indicated that because we have no idea when the FEMA issue will be resolved, he and David Johnson from ITS will be meeting with Treasury some time next week to discuss the need for a short term loan.

Chairman Epps called for any other business. Mr. Mike Murphy of GSRCPi came forward to share information relating to the 3rd Annual Gulf States Technical Summit. The Summit will be held in Mobile, AL, October 27-29, 2009 at Riverview Suites. Topics of discussion and presentations will include: Narrow Banding; Lessons Learned – Implementing State-Wide Interoperability Systems; and Florida, Texas, and Arkansas will provide presentations on their systems. Those interested in attending should go online at grcpsi.org to register.

The next meeting will be October 1, 2009, in the MDOT Auditorium at 1:30 PM.

Keith Harkins made a motion to adjourn and Jay Ledbetter seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:40 PM.